MITSEMINAR XXI
EDUCATING U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY LEADERS

REALISM, LIBERALISM, AND CHINA
November 3, 2025
READING LIST

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

Realism

1. Kenneth N. Waltz, 1959. *Man, the State and War*. New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 1-15.

2. John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Chapters 2 and 5, pp. 29-54, 138-167.

3. Robert Jervis. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 62-76. (Spiral model and deterrence theory).

4. Stephen Walt. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 3-43. (Defensive Realism).

5. John J. Mearsheimer, 2025. "War and International Politics." *International Security*, 2025, Vol. 49, No. 4: pp. 7-36.

Liberalism

6. Andrew Moravcsik. 2008. "The New Liberalism," in Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 234-254.

Recommended:

7. Andrew Moravcsik, "Why Europe Wins," *Foreign Policy*, Fall 2020, pp. 46-52.

THEORY APPLIED – ENTER CHINA

8. Elbridge Colby and Robert D. Kaplan, "The Ideology Delusion," *Foreign Affairs*, September 4, 2020, pp. 1-8. Available at: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-09-04/ideology-delusion.

9. Hal Brands and Zack Cooper, "U.S.-China Rivalry is a Battle Over Values," *Foreign Affairs*, March 16, 2021, pp. 1-9. Available at:

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2021-03-16/us-china-rivalry-battle-over-values.

10. Charles L. Glaser, "Washington is Avoiding the Tough Questions on China," *Foreign Affairs*, April 28, 2021, 1-9. Available at: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/asia/2021-04-28/washington-avoiding-tough-questions-taiwan-and-china.

11. Fareed Zakaria. 2019. "The New China Scare: Why America Shouldn't Panic About Its Latest Challenger," *Foreign Affairs,* January/February Vol. 98, No. 1., pp. 1-21. Available at: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2019-12-06/new-china-scare

12. John J. Mearsheimer, "Great Power Rivalries: The Case for Realism," *Le Monde Diplomatique,* August 2023, pp. 4-5. Available at: https://mondediplo.com/2023/08/02great-powers.

13. Rory Truex, "Opinion: Where Have All the American China Experts Gone?" *Washington Pos*t, January 3, 2024, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/01/03/us-shortage-china-experts/.

14. Rory Truex and Michael Cerny. "Under Pressure: Attitudes Towards China Among American Foreign Policy Professionals." Blog. *The Monitor*, December 10, 2024: https://uscnpm.substack.com/p/under-pressure-attitudes-towards.

Recommended:

15. Adam Liff and G. John Ikenberry. 2014. "Racing Toward Tragedy? China's Rise, Military Competition in the Asia Pacific, and the Security Dilemma," *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 52-91.

16. Richard Fontaine and Mira Rapp-Hooper. 2016. "The China Syndrome," *The National Interest*, No. 143, pp. 10-18.

17. Jessica Chen Weiss. "The Case Against the China Consensus." *Foreign Affairs*, September 16, 2024: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/case-against-china-consensus.